UNITED
NATIONS

S

Security Council

Distr.
GENERAL

S/1998/865
17 September 1998

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

# LETTER DATED 16 SEPTEMBER 1998 FROM THE CHARGÉ D'AFFAIRES A.I. OF THE PERMANENT MISSION OF THE DEMOCRATIC PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF KOREA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

I have the honour to transmit herewith the text of a statement of the spokesman for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, dated 14 September 1998, concerning Japan's recent campaign against the Democratic People's Republic of Korea in the wake of its launch of an artificial satellite.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) KIM Chang Guk
Ambassador
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

98-27353 (E) 170998

/...

Annex

Statement of the spokesman for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea dated 14 September 1998

A grave situation is now in the making in north-east Asia, endangering international peace and security owing to the reckless and rash behaviour of Japan concerning the launching of an artificial satellite by our country.

While alone in insisting that our satellite launch was that of a ballistic missile, the Japanese authorities made public what they called "counter-measures", suspending negotiations to normalize diplomatic relations between the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and Japan, suspending food assistance to our country and terminating flights of Air Koryo planes to Japan. Preposterously, they are making much ado, even taking the issue to the United Nations Security Council and creating "international pressure" on the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

It is a ridiculous foul act on the part of the Japanese authorities, as if they had intended to resume talks on normalizing diplomatic relations.

As a result of the campaign against the Democratic People's Republic of Korea mounted by the Japanese authorities, a frenzied wind, involving all sorts of blackmail and violent acts against Korean nationals and friends of our people, is now sweeping Japan, posing serious threats to their lives and their property. The authorities make thoughtless remarks, one after another, saying that they would not lift "sanctions" against us even if the current launching was that of a satellite.

All the more serious is the open utterance of violent remarks among the military and government authorities of Japan, even calling for "strike" on our missile bases.

The satellite launch is entirely a matter pertaining to the sovereignty of a sovereign State, and the launch of our satellite, "Kwangmyongsong No. 1", is aimed solely at the peaceful development of science and technology.

Our people, even with their belts tightened, have brilliantly implemented the policy of the Government of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea on attaching importance to science and technology, with the result that a firm foundation has been laid for obtaining more foreign currency faster, currency which is necessary for solving on our economic problems, including food problems, by actively advancing to the international high-tech markets such as the launching of commercial satellites.

In launching the current satellite, we have taken sufficient scientific and technical measures to ensure the security of the neighbouring countries and international navigation, the result of which is shown in the reality of the situation after the launch.

/.

Unable to confirm our satellite on its own, Japan looks to the United States for possible information. However, the United States, which rather requires Japan's "missile phobia", is not likely to confirm our successful satellite launch soon.

Despite meaningful development of the compromise settlement of talks between the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and the United States following our satellite launch, the Japanese authorities are running amok alone, embarrassing even their allies. There is a motive here.

Only Japan says it is "concerned" about our satellite launch, because it is guilty of crimes against us. A guilty conscience needs no accuser and tries to realize its militaristic designs.

Not a single day could Japan have felt at ease, for, until today, on the eve of the next century, it has shirked its apology and compensation for the grave inhumane crimes committed against our nation.

The Japanese authorities miscalculate, believing that only when they convince the public at home and abroad that we launched a missile can they easily enact a law for the newly revised United States-Japan defence cooperation guidelines, build public opinion favourable for the introduction of the "theatre missile defence system" and possess their own military satellites needed for building a great military power.

As a result of such reckless madness of the Japanese authorities, the relations between the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and Japan are now heading for the dangerous threshold of war, going beyond simple freeze or aggravation.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea resolutely denounces the Japanese authorities for their provocative manoeuvres against our country, for seriously insulting our nation's dignity and for posing a grave threat to the sovereignty of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and to peace in north-east Asia and, to cope with this situation, solemnly declares as follows;

First, as long as Japan resorts to hostile acts against the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea will never normalize diplomatic relations with Japan.

Second, if Japan any longer avoids making an apology and giving compensation for past crimes, it will be held wholly responsible for all consequences to be incurred therefrom.

Third, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea will resolutely counter Japan's acts against it with comprehensive and strong self-defensive measures.

Any hostile act against Korean nationals in Japan will be considered to be an act by the Japanese authorities against the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

The Japanese authorities must ponder what catastrophic consequences will result from their attempts to find a way out of the serious economic crisis in the provocative campaign against the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and to re-invade our country by taking the satellite launch by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea as an opportunity for a revival of militarism.

---